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Atty. Docket No.: P70807US0

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 9 and add claim 20 as follows:

1. (Original) An ostomy appliance comprising a front wall and a rear wall of flexible material forming a bag, said rear wall
 - having an opening for receiving a stoma, and
 - being provided with an adhesive wafer for securing the appliance to a user's skin, said wafer having a hole being aligned with the opening for receiving the stoma, wherein the opening of the rear wall has an edge being adapted to be secured to a surface of the adhesive wafer facing away from the user in an attachment zone surrounding the hole of the wafer, and wherein
 - a first part of the edge of the opening of the rear wall is permanently secured to the surface of the wafer in a corresponding first part of the attachment zone, and
 - a second, remaining part of the edge of the opening of the bag is prepared for adhesive sealing of the same to a remaining second part of the attachment zone.

2. (Original) An ostomy appliance according to claim 1, wherein the second, remaining part of the edge of the opening of

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the bag is prepared for permanently adhesive sealing of the same to the remaining second part of the attachment zone.

3. (Previously Presented) An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 1 wherein the ostomy appliance further comprises a separate sealing member disposed in the hole of the wafer surrounding the stoma and having a hole for accommodating the stoma.

4. (Previously Presented) An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 1 wherein the second part of the edge of the bag is secured to one surface of a stiffening element.

5. (Original) An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 4 wherein the first and the second part of the edge of the bag are secured to a first and a second part, respectively, of one surface of the stiffening element.

6. (Previously Presented) An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 4 wherein the stiffening element is a flat ring provided with two notches dividing the flat ring into two parts.

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7. (Original) An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 6, wherein the notches stretch essentially along a chord of the flat ring.

8. (Original) An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 7, wherein the notches stretch essentially along a diameter of the flat ring.

9. (Currently Amended) An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 4 wherein the part of the stiffening element secured to the second part of the bag is provided with an adhesive layer being covered by a protecting layer.

10. (Previously Presented) An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 4 wherein the second part of the attachment zone of the wafer is provided with an adhesive layer being covered by a protecting layer.

11. (Withdrawn) A method of applying an ostomy appliance that has a front wall and a rear wall of flexible material forming a bag, said rear wall having an opening for receiving a stoma, and being provided with an adhesive wafer for securing the appliance to

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a user's skin, said wafer having a hole being aligned with the opening for receiving the stoma, the opening of the rear wall having an edge adapted to be secured to a surface of the adhesive wafer facing away from the user in an attachment zone surrounding the hole of the wafer, and a first part of the edge of the opening of the rear wall being permanently secured to the surface of the wafer in a corresponding first part of the attachment zone, and a second, remaining part of the edge of the opening of the bag being prepared for adhesive sealing of the same to a remaining second part of the attachment zone, said method comprising the steps of:

locating the stoma;

adapting the size of the hole of the adhesive wafer to the stoma;

aligning the stoma and the hole of the adhesive wafer;

placing the adhesive wafer, with said bag already permanently secured to the surface of the wafer in said corresponding first part of the attachment zone, on the abdomen of the ostomate with the stoma projecting into the hole of the wafer; and

sealing the bag by bringing the remaining second part of the edge of the bag into adhesive contact with the remaining second part of the attachment zone.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of applying an ostomy appliance according to claim 11, said method further comprising:

locating a separate sealing member having a second hole for accommodating the stoma and being disposed in the hole of the wafer surrounding the stoma;

enlarging the second hole of the sealing member by everting or rolling an inner rim of the second hole adapting the size and shape of the second hole to the stoma;

aligning the stoma and the second hole;

placing the sealing member on the abdomen of the ostomate with the stoma projecting into the second hole; and

bringing the sealing member to seal between the adhesive wafer and the stoma.

13. (Previously Presented) An ostomy appliance comprising:

a bag having a front wall and a rear wall of flexible material, said rear wall having an opening for receiving a stoma and surrounded by an edge;

an adhesive wafer configured to secure the appliance to a user's skin, said wafer having a hole aligned with said bag opening for receiving the stoma, and an attachment zone surrounding the wafer hole on a surface facing away from the user;

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said bag edge having a first edge part permanently secured to a first part of said attachment zone and a second remaining edge part configured to be changed from a first position, in which said second edge part is unattached relative to said attachment zone, to a second position in which said second edge part is adhesively sealed to a second part of said attachment zone.

14. (Previously Presented) The ostomy appliance according to claim 13, wherein the second edge part is configured for permanent adhesive sealing thereof to the second part of the attachment zone.

15. (Previously Presented) The ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 13, wherein the ostomy appliance further comprises a separate sealing member disposed in the hole of the wafer surrounding the stoma and having a hole for accommodating the stoma.

16. (Previously Presented) The ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a stiffening element extending around said bag edge, the second edge part being secured to one surface of said stiffening element.

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17. (Previously Presented) The ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 16, wherein the stiffening element is a flat ring provided with two notches dividing the flat ring into first and second ring parts, the first and second edge parts being secured to said first and second ring parts, respectively, of one surface of the stiffening element.

18. (Previously Presented) The ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 17, wherein the second ring part of the stiffening element is provided with an adhesive layer covered by a protecting layer.

19. (Previously Presented) The ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 18, wherein the second part of the wafer attachment zone has an adhesive layer covered by a protecting layer.

20. (New) An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 1 wherein said front wall includes an opening having a cover that may be released and resealed to give temporary access to an internal space of the bag.